

onym of *T. cirrhatus*, as one of his specimens agreed with skins from Guiana. Two specimens in my collection agree with the Demerara skins, but not with the examples from Trinidad, with the exception of the single one mentioned by Mr. Chapman. The degree of individual variation in this species must be worked out before the synonymy can be established.

Amazilia erythronota (Less.). The most abundant Hummer.

[Comparing six specimens collected by Mr. Phelps with eight specimens in the American Museum, including two authentic Trinidad examples, I can find no grounds for the continued separation of the Venezuelan and Trinidad birds.

The alleged character of difference in the color of the lower tail-coverts proves, as Mr. Salvin has remarked,¹ to be inconstant, this character in the Venezuelan specimens before me ranging from dusky to cinnamon-rufous. Nor is the color of the tail of value, the Trinidad examples being exactly matched by those from the mainland.

I have seen no specimens of *A. tobaci* from Tobago and therefore adopt the name *erythronota* provisionally. — F. M. C.]

Steatornis caripensis Humb. The famous cave, near the town of Caripe, where this species was discovered by Humboldt, was visited on August 5 and 6. The birds were found in great numbers and a thorough exploration of the large cave was made.

Picumnus obsoletus Allen. [Three males essentially resemble the type of *P. obsoletus* except in the color of the crown-spots, which are lemon-yellow instead of orange-red. Two young specimens of *Picumnus guttifer* have both yellow and red feathers in the crown and it seems probable therefore that Mr. Phelps's specimens are immature. In respect to the squamation of the under parts they agree with the type of *obsoletus* in being more lightly marked than *P. squamulatus* of which I have examined seven specimens, including three kindly loaned me by Mr. Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds in the U. S. National Museum. — F. M. C.]

THE HORNED LARKS OF MAINE.

BY O. W. KNIGHT.

UNTIL the present year, 1897, *Otocoris alpestris* had been the only variety of Horned Lark which had been recorded from Maine, but in view of the fact that *O. a. praticola* had been reported

¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XVI, p. 225.

from the neighboring New England States it seemed highly probable that it would ultimately be taken in this State. In a letter written in the fall of 1896, my friend, Arthur H. Norton of Westbrook, predicted that the subspecies in question would soon be taken in the State. This prediction was verified by a record in the Maine 'Sportsman' for April, 1897, of the capture of four specimens at North Bridgton, Cumberland County, by J. C. Mead. Some time previously Mr. Mead had written me that he had been looking for Horned Larks in his locality for nearly twenty-five years, but so far his search had been in vain. In March he again wrote that on the 13th he had observed a flock of about twenty-five individuals running along in the road near his residence, and had secured four specimens which from the lack of yellow markings he was inclined to refer to *praticola*. These were later sent to Mr. Norton and their identification verified. When I learned these particulars, I resolved to secure the loan of specimens of the genus *Otocoris* from various collectors in the State with the hopes of discovering more specimens of *praticola* among them. Sixteen specimens were obtained from seven different sources, and eight of these proved representatives of the subspecies in question, all but one being perfectly typical. Three of these, including the least typical one, were sent to Mr. Brewster in order to be absolutely certain of their identity.

The Maine specimens of *praticola*, known to exist in collections are as follows: four taken at North Bridgton, March 13, 1897, by J. C. Mead. Two of these are males and one a female by dissection, while the fourth is a male by proportions and markings. A pair in the collection of the University of Maine were taken at Bucksport, Hancock County, in the winter of 1886 or 1887 by Alvan G. Dorr. A male taken at Bangor, Penobscot County, March 30, 1887, by Harry Merrill, and at present in his collection, is the earliest Maine specimen whose exact date of capture is known. C. H. Morrell of Pittsfield, Somerset County, has in his collection three specimens taken near his home; these are a male taken March 29, 1892, a male taken March 27, 1893, and a female taken March 22, 1894. The ovaries of this last-mentioned specimen were distended to the size of number five shot. A specimen which is seemingly a male was taken at Waterville, Kennebec

County, in the spring of 1892 or 1893 by Prof. A. L. Lane, in whose collection it now is. Another seeming male was taken near Monson, Piscataquis County, by Wallace Homer and is at present in his collection. This gives a total of twelve specimens from six localities, and is evidence enough to prove the regular occurrence of *praticola* in the State as a visitor in late winter and early spring. The chances are that a majority if not all the birds in the flock seen by Mr. Mead were of this subspecies. The nearest to the coast at which it is positively known to occur is Bucksport, situated on the Penobscot River, and consequently we may safely call these interior specimens.

I have seen only nine examples of *alpestris* from interior localities. Six were from Monson, Piscataquis County, and were sent to me by Wallace Homer. One of these was in the flesh, and as it was taken the first week in May I can cite it as a specimen taken at the latest date in the spring on which I have ever known the species to occur. A specimen in the collection of George A. Boardman of Calais, Washington County, one from A. R. Pike of Auburn, and one taken near Lewiston, Androscoggin County, by E. E. Johnson, are all the interior taken specimens which have come to my knowledge. I have personally examined all the specimens above recorded.

With the above evidence we may safely assert that *praticola* is the predominating form of the interior, in the spring at least. Whether it breeds or not I am unable to say, but at present it seems to have been taken only in the month of March. Although Horned Larks have been seen near Bangor and elsewhere in the late fall, I have been unable to learn of any fall specimens from the State being preserved in any collections, and consequently would not care to express an opinion regarding the identity of the birds that occur in fall.

As regards coast specimens of *alpestris*, Mr. Norton informs me that he has in his collection a number of Cumberland County specimens, and as he has been looking for *praticola* in vain near Westbrook, Portland, and Scarborough, the chances are that it occurs there rarely if at all. He informs me that Mr. Rackliff of Spruce Head, Knox County, has also been looking for *praticola* (at his request) but in vain so far.

I have corresponded with all the leading Ornithologists of the State, and have seen nearly all the Horned Larks which they have in their collections. My thanks are due to the parties named in this article for loaning or allowing me to view the specimens here recorded. All previous records relating to the occurrence of these birds in Maine are open to grave doubts, owing to the uncertainty as to which of the Horned Larks they refer.

Since writing the above article, I have learned that Mr. C. D. Farrar took a specimen of *praticola* from a flock of eight or ten, near Lewiston, Feb. 26, 1897, and that it was identified by Mr. Brewster. For records of these birds, published elsewhere since my article was written, cf. Knight, 'List of the Birds of Maine,' p. 82, and Morrell, 'The Osprey,' June, 1897, p. 137.

NOTES ON THE AMERICAN BARN OWL IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA.¹

BY J. HARRIS REED.

THE breeding range of the Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*), with few exceptions, does not extend north of Pennsylvania or New Jersey. It is locally distributed throughout its range, being restricted to such localities as afford an ample food supply for its wants. The extensive meadow lands along the Delaware River, south of Philadelphia, are its most favorite retreat, in this vicinity. Most of the trees which were scattered over these meadows and stood as old land-marks for roosting and nesting places of this bird for many years have been destroyed by storm or axe, and the Owls have been compelled to a great extent to seek quarters over the adjoining country; a few, however, still remain.

¹ Read before the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Philadelphia, April 15, 1897.